

me in a letter that he had just completed Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin's autobiography, was up to Volume 4 of Edward Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" and also had read the 35,000-word Unabomber manifesto. It was repetitious, Russ commented.

Russ set a deadline for himself to retire at 65. A few months before, President Johnson nominated him as ambassador to the United Nations. Russ insisted on leaving without much ceremony.

Then Russ did the most admirable thing of all: He went to Ellsworth, Maine, where he had vacationed, bought the paper there and built it up into one of the most distinguished small papers in the country. He wrote a poem for it every week. And he never lost his creative editorial spirit. To point out the deficiencies of the post office, for instance, he mailed a letter to Ellsworth from a neighboring town and had two oxen pull a cart that beat the letter.

Even after he'd left The Post, Russ remained one of our most interested readers and staunchest supporters. Shortly after the Janet Cooke story erupted, Russ came to a meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, where we were being drubbed right and left. With his usual wry humor, Russ said, "I feel great about the state of the American press. Every editor I saw assured me this couldn't have happened at his paper."

Russ lived his entire life according to the highest intellectual and moral standards, with great humor and compassion for others, and with panache. He was thoughtful—I would even say brilliant. The words he evokes are "excellence" and "integrity." He had fun and he gave it to others. He was a teacher and a friend to the very end.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 20, 2000]

JAMES RUSSELL WIGGINS

Almost the minute he took over as managing editor of this newspaper in 1947, James Russell Wiggins jolted the city room staff with his passion for rectitude and integrity. No more freebies, he decreed, not even movie passes for copy aides. No more fixing of tickets at police headquarters. These were not the crotchety preachings of a fuddy-duddy; Russ Wiggins, who died yesterday at the age of 96, was a vigorous and engaged editor who cared deeply about ethical standards, old-fashioned honesty and the importance of a free and independent press. During his 21-year stewardship here, his enthusiasm for the competitive pursuit of information was girded by an insistence on fairness.

Today the news and editorial departments at The Post are independently managed. In Mr. Wiggins' day, though, both fell under his exacting command; he took care to maintain a sharp delineation. "The ideal newspaperman," he told the staff, "is a man who never forgets that he is a reporter . . . not a mover and shaker. . . . Nothing could be more alarming or dismaying to me . . . than to encounter repeatedly the suggestion that the reader knows from the news columns what the views of the newspaper are." The reporter ought to have the commitment "of the honest witness, the fair narrator," he said.

A largely self-educated, extraordinarily well-read man who never went to college, Mr. Wiggins kept reporters and editorial writers alike on their toes—quizzing them on findings, recommending books and suggesting further questions or research. Cartoonist Herblock remembers showing sketches to Mr. Wiggins, who might argue about the views and then say, "God knows, I tried to reason with you!"—and let them go.

Mr. Wiggins' own editorial views, often churned out in bunches on a given day, were no fence-sitters. He railed against the evils of gambling, the dangers of a large national debt, restrictions on the press and the slowness of mail service.

Mr. Wiggins left the Post more than three decades ago. But that's not to say he retired. As publisher of the Ellsworth American in Maine, Mr. Wiggins worked and wrote and read on; and he kept up correspondence with this newspaper, exchanging ideas, complimenting an occasional piece and reprimanding us for certain stands taken.

We paid attention, too. To the end, Russ Wiggins was extraordinarily important to this newspaper. •

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL H. DETTMER

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a fine public servant, Michael H. Dettmer, on his retirement.

Since January of 1994, Mike has served diligently as the United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan. During his seven-year tenure, his office obtained more than 2700 convictions and helped lead numerous crime fighting initiatives in the District involving Federal law enforcement's support, leadership and participation.

Among his impressive accomplishments are the task forces and partnerships he helped create and foster to combat drugs and violent crime. A few of those specialized partnerships are the Methcathinone Task Force, the Benton Harbor Violent Crime Task Force, the Health Care Fraud Task Force, the Western Michigan Environmental Task Force and Project Exile.

Mike is also to be credited for reinvigorating the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee/Victim-Witness unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office. Since 1994, this unit has adopted an elementary school in the Grand Rapids public school system, participated in the D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and D.E.F.Y (Drug Education For Youth) programs, and sponsored more than 80 training programs covering all aspects of law enforcement. In addition, under Mike's leadership, four additional sites to the Weed and Seed Program have been created, making the Western District of Michigan's program one of the largest initiatives among any Federal District in the United States.

In recognition of his efforts, in 1998, Mike was honored by the Department of Justice Programs Director and Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson for his work in the area of crime prevention and reduction. In addition, in the year 2000, Mike was honored by the national Executive Office of Weed and Seed with it's "Creating Healthy Communities" Award and by the City of Benton Harbor with the presentation of its "Key to the City" Award.

Of course, his many achievements could not have been attained without

the love and support of his wife of more than 30 years, Teckla, and their children, Janna and Bryn. Mr. President, I know that the members of the Senate will join me in congratulating Mike on a job well-done and thanking him for his service to the people of Michigan. •

#### A TRIBUTE TO PERCY HILL

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Percy Hill, an accomplished school teacher from Andover, NH. Percy was recently honored at the Disney American Teacher Awards, as one of the 33 honorees selected from a group of 70,000 who were chosen for their creativity in the classroom as well as their teaching accomplishments.

Growing up in New England, Percy developed his love for athletics as well as children, spending the past 10 years coaching the Unicycle Team. Working around the clock, he has coached these champions to new levels. They have performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Fiesta Bowl Parade, the Strawberry Festival of Virginia and even have gone international, performing in Canada.

Not only has Percy given his time and energy to coaching, but he has spent countless hours raising the funds for the team's traveling expenses. Percy has managed to fund one hundred percent of all of the trips through massive fund raising efforts, allowing all children to go regardless of their situations outside of practice. He has proven time and time again to be a valuable asset not only to the team, but the community of Andover as well.

Aside from Percy's work with the unicycle team he also finds time to volunteer referee both basketball and soccer, proving once again, that Percy Hill puts his dedication to the youth of America at the top of his priority list. He is to be commended on his commitment to Andover Elementary and Middle School, and those students which attend it.

The Disney American Teacher Awards were developed as, "A way of honoring members of the teaching profession, whose talent, commitment, and creativity have a profound and lasting impact on our children as well as our society as a whole," according to Michael D. Eisner, CEO of Disney. All of Percy Hill's actions speak volumes of his commitment and impact on the children of Andover, NH. It is an honor to represent him in the Senate. •

#### HONORING MARILYN HERZ AS SOUTH DAKOTA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2001

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to honor Marilyn Herz, a sixth grade language arts teacher from Rapid City, who has recently been named South Dakota's Teacher of the Year for 2001.